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**“An ever-expanding universe of information”: Joseph Paxton and his followers in the communications revolution**

David Bawden

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“his literary ability was of a high order, as the eminence of his professional writings attest, and yet withal he was thoroughly practical”

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“it is impossible to study landscape and garden design in the nineteenth century without recognising the enormous influence of a rapidly developing technology, allied with an expanding communications network”  
(Anthea Taigel and Tom Williamson, *Parks and Gardens*, 1993)

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- Joseph Paxton (and others?)
- Edward Milner, John Gibson, Edward Kemp (George Eyles, J.C. Niven)
- Frederick Law Olmsted
- Predecessors (J.C. Loudon)
- Contemporaries (Robert Marnock, Joshua Major)

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“a voracious reader on all subjects horticultural .. though perhaps not as prolific a writer as Loudon”

- *Practical Treatise on the Culture of the Dahlia*
- *Pocket Botanical Dictionary*
- *Calendar of Garden Operations*
- *Horticultural Register, Magazine of Botany, Gardener's Chronicle, Paxton's Flower Garden*
- *Daily News*
- *Punch magazine*
- pamphlets, reports, letters

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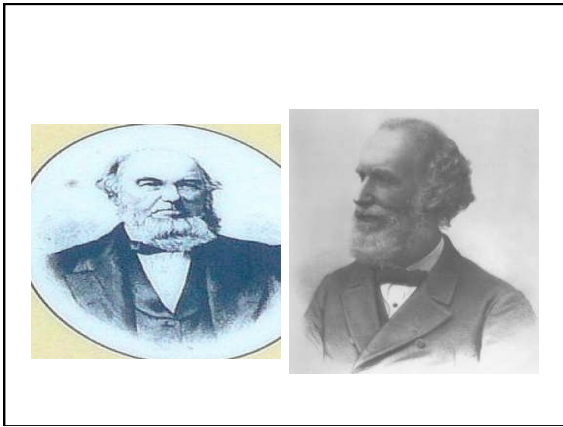
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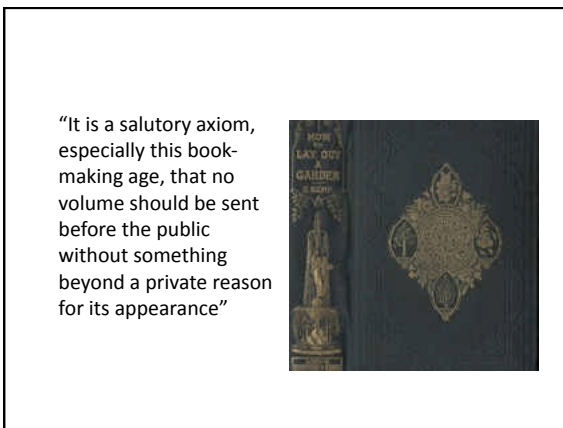
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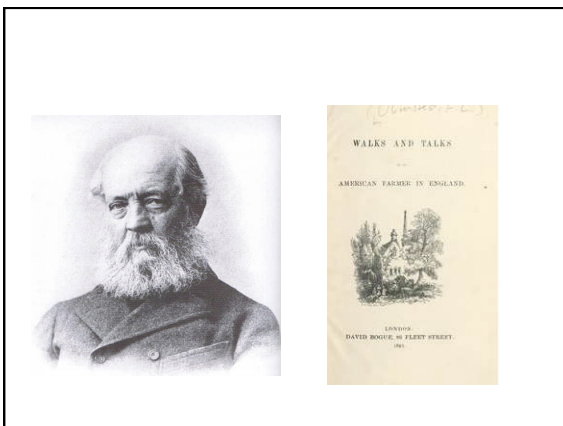
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## Predecessors

"A gardener can no more acquire his profession without books than he can without tools"  
(J.C. Loudon)



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## Contemporaries



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## Information/communication revolution



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## Information society



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"an information society is defined as as one in which theoretical knowledge occupies a pre-eminence which it hitherto lacked ... By theoretical knowledge is meant that which is abstract, generalizable and codified in media of one sort of another"

{Frank Webster)

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"I hope to see in all these large towns places of instruction and amusement combined ... I believe it would lend much to the advancement of our social condition to have all these advantages brought into one focus"

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"It is significant that early 19<sup>th</sup> century gardening publications all carry numerous articles dealing with "self-instruction for young gardeners ..from temperance to literary composition, from botany to Sir Uvedale Price" (Chadwick, Works of Sir Joseph Paxton)




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".. the best way to appear original – at least in your own eyes – is to be ignorant of the past"  
(Brent Elliott, *The Garden*, 1998)

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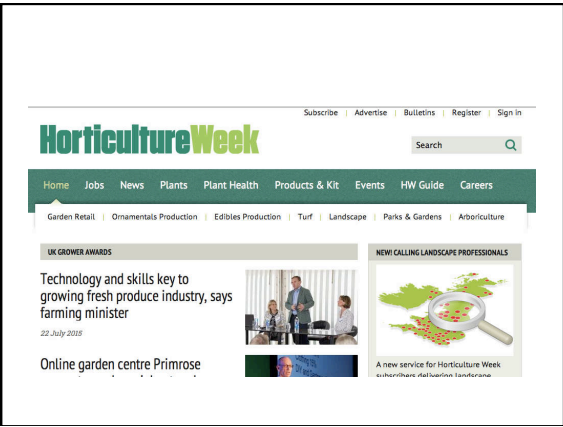
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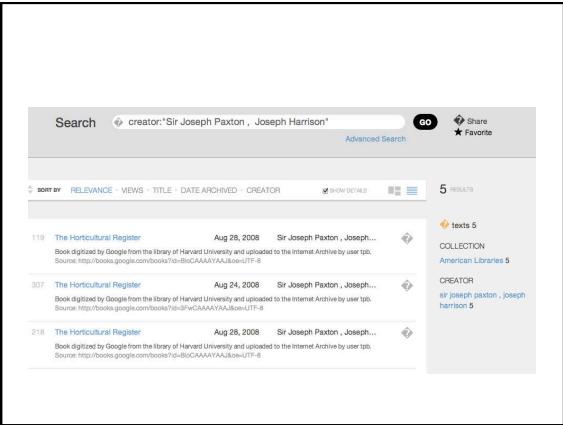
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